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THE ARTIST'S MODEL. J. L. GÉRÔME.  
PRESENTED BY MR. JOHN LEVY.

## PAINTING BY JEAN LÉON GÉRÔME

A painting by Jean Léon Gérôme entitled "*The Artist's Model*" has been presented to the Institute by John Levy of the John Levy Galleries, New York. Through this gift another noted French painter of the XIX century is represented in the Institute's permanent collection.

"*The Artist's Model*" is a most appealing and pleasing subject, showing an artist about his every day task, the living model before him and the sculptured form on which he is working beside it. In the background is that multitude of useful studio trappings, plaster casts, baskets, pottery, draperies, etc., all faithfully put in in their delightful disarray, with the absolute completeness of every detail so characteristic of Gérôme. The picture has a three-fold interest. It is a self portrait of the artist, it shows him in the rôle of sculptor, which he filled almost as successfully as that of painter, and it thoroughly typifies his peculiar style of painting in a delightful subject of holiday mood.

The painter happily visualizes for us by his own hand a noted artist of the XIX century who as a member of the École des Beaux Arts had a great influence upon the students of his time, among whom were many Americans. We see the

manner of man he was, how he worked, what his studio surroundings were, and with what fidelity he recorded, both in sculpture and painting, the thing he had in hand.

Jean Léon Gérôme was born on the eleventh of May, 1824, at Vesoul (Haute-Saône). He went to Paris in 1841 and worked at the École des Beaux Arts under Paul Delaroche, with whom he later went to Italy (1844-1845). On his return to Paris he studied with Gleyre. At this time his work inclined toward the classic and he was the head of the school of painting known as the neo-grec. In 1854 he made a journey to Turkey and the shores of the Danube and in 1857 visited Egypt. The influence of these wanderings in the East was of great importance, and some of his most important works deal with scenes of Eastern life. In 1863 he was appointed to one of the professorships in the École des Beaux Arts and in 1865 he was elected as one of the fourteen who formed the Academy of Painting of the Institute. He was also made an honorary member of the English Royal Academy of Art and Knight of the Order of the Red Eagle. As a sculptor and as a worker in metals and precious stones, a craft which he followed in his earlier years and took up again in later life, he also achieved marked success. He died in 1904.